

Fashion Talk **Wear It to Work**

“I’ve Earned the Right to Dress As I Like”

No pantsuits here! When Sama CEO Leila Janah gets dressed for work, she embraces her personal style.
By Lauren Chan



Leila Janah, 33, is the buzzed-about CEO of Sama—a social enterprise that employs low-income individuals in East Africa and South Asia to do data work for companies including Google and Microsoft—and a woman with serious style. Here’s how she mastered it.

MY FASHION EVOLUTION: “At the beginning of my career, my work style was nineties corporate. I was told to wear pantsuits to hide my figure and not attract attention to myself, which I now think is the worst advice *ever*. The women I learned from don’t apologize for who they are.”

MY POWER-DRESSING PHILOSOPHY: “A recent work highlight was moderating the Nobel Week panels. I wore a bright Alexander McQueen dress [left] to pay homage to my Indian heritage and the places Sama works, where vibrant pieces are celebrated. When I look at my ancestors, they were not wearing beige!”

MY RENTAL OBSESSION: “I’m into ethical consumption, so I want my clothing to reflect that—*without* my image suffering. I rented that McQueen dress from Style Lend, a closet-sharing service that lets people post their personal clothing, and I also use Rent the Runway. I can look my best without buying new outfits often.”

MY STYLE INSPIRATION: “I recently launched Laxmi, a skin care brand that sources ingredients from developing countries and pays workers three times the local wages. Andrea Jung, the former head of Avon, has been one of my mentors. She’s stylish and wears makeup—she embodies the idea that you don’t have to adopt a Mother Teresa aesthetic to do meaningful work in this world.” 6

Fired Up

“You don’t have to adopt a Mother Teresa aesthetic to do meaningful work in this world,” says Janah.

Alexander McQueen dress (rented from Style Lend). **W. Britt** bracelets. **Maiyet** cuff. **Lizzie Fortunato** ring. **Aquazzura** pumps. Go to glamour.com/magazine for more shopping information.

68 glamour.com

All the inspiration you need to up your office-outfit game is at glamour.com/fashion/outfit-ideas.

Photograph by Arturo Torres

STYLIST: LAUREN GOODMAN; HAIR AND MAKEUP: JANE KIM; PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE BATTERY SF